

## Report



### Bangladesh Dialogue on Internet Governance

Venue: Amber IT, Conference Room, 45 Navana Tower, 7th Floor, Gulshan-1, Dhaka  
Date : Thursday 29 September, 2016; Time : 05.00 - 07.00 pm



**Sumon Ahmed Sabir**  
Chairman  
bdNOG



**Aminul Hakim**  
President  
ISPAB



**Muhammad Khan**  
President  
BIJF



**Tarique M Barkatullah**  
Director  
National Data Center



**Sadiq Iqbal**  
Associate Professor  
Bangladesh University



**AHM Bazlur Rahman**  
CEO  
BNNRC



**TIM Nurul Kabir**  
Secretary General  
AMTOB



**Afroza Haq Rina**  
Managing Director  
Shom Communication Ltd.



**Mohammad Abdul Haque**  
Secretary General  
BIGF



**Emdadul Huque**  
General Secretary  
ISPAB



**Nurunnaby Chowdhury**  
Administrator  
Bangla Wikipedia



**Md. Jahangir Hossain**  
Vice President  
ISOC Dhaka Chapter



**Shazzad Hossain**  
Personal Assistant  
Information Minister



**Khaza Md. Anas Khan**  
Senior Manager  
Gigabyte, Bangladesh



**Jamil Ahmed**  
Media &  
Governance Expert



**Mohammad Kawsar Uddin**  
Fellow  
IGF Academy

Organized by :



In collaboration with :



Prepared by:

**Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu**

Secretary General

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## Bangladesh Dialogue on Internet Governance Speaker Participation List

1. **Sumon Ahmed Sabir**, Chairman, Bangladesh Network Operators Group (bdNOG)
2. **Aminul Hakim**, President, Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB)
3. **Muhammad Khan**, President, Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum (BIJF)
4. **Engr. Tarique M Barkatullah**, Director, National Data Center
5. **Sadiq Iqbal**, Associate Professor, Chairman, Department of CSE at Bangladesh University
6. **AHM Bazlur Rahman**, CEO, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communications (BNNRC)
7. **T I M Nurul Kabir**, Secretary General, Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB)
8. **Afroza Haq Rina**, Managing Director, Shom Communication Ltd.
9. **Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu**, Secretary General, Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF)
10. **Emdadul Huque**, General Secretary, Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB)
11. **Nurunnaby Chowdhury**, Administrator, Bangla Wikipedia
12. **Md. Jahangir Hossain**, Vice President, Internet Society (ISOC) Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter
13. **Shazzad Hossain**, Personal Assistant, Information Minister, Bangladesh
14. **Khaza Md. Anas Khan**, Senior Manager, Bangladesh, Gigabyte Technology Co., LTD.
15. **Jamil Ahmed**, Media & Governance Expert
16. **Mohammad Kawsar Uddin**, Fellow, IGF Academy
17. **Nurul Islam Roman**, Manager, Training and Technical, Assistance Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)

## Bangladesh Dialogue on Internet Governance Forum

**Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu**

On September 29, 2016 (Thursday) a dialogue titled, “Bangladesh Dialogue on Internet Governance” was held at Amber IT’s conference room in Dhaka. Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF), with the support of Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB), organized the dialogue.

Three representatives of the civil society, one representative from academia, three representatives from the business community, three representatives from the technical community, three representatives from the media, and one representatives of the government participated in this 180 minute dialogue session. BIGF Secretary General Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu was the moderator of the discussion.

At the opening session, Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu showed a video clip on Internet Governance. This was followed by a power point presentation with brief overview of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) initiated by the United Nations and brief overview of the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) and BIGF. The participants were also informed of the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> UNIGF which will be held in Mexico from December 6 to December 9.



Sumon Ahmed Sabir, Chairman, [Bangladesh Network Operators Group](#) (bdNOG) talked about finding out the problems and taking necessary steps to solve them and if necessary ask for APriGF's assistance. He said, "We can even go to UNIGF to get possible solutions. We should work together to popularize IPV6. We also should work to give internet access to physically challenged people."

Aminul Hakim, President, Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB) said, "ISPAB and BIGF can work together to develop Internet policy. For example, people can now communicate with each other with Skype, Viber, Whatsapp but Bangladeshi companies are not allowed to introduce such services. Recently, BTRC issued another circular that bars ISP service providers from launching IPTV services."

Muhammad Khan, President, Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum (BIJF) said, "By writing about Internet Governance and spreading awareness about it we shall continue our support in Bangladesh."

Sadiq Iqbal, Associate Professor, Chairman, Department of CSE at Bangladesh University said, "Now Internet has become a basic necessity for people. While drafting policy we should keep in mind that it should not be Dhaka centric. The policy should ensure easy Internet access to people all over Bangladesh. Bigdata and Cloud Computing are the upcoming trends in the Global ICT arena and we should start thinking about implementing these technologies in our country as well. Currently, we have to seek permission from BTRC for video conferencing and has to make a cash deposit of one and half lakh taka but Skype offers free video conferencing services. We should discuss these matters with our policy-makers."



AHM Bazlur Rahman, CEO, BNNRC said, “First, BIGF should work in five areas- infrastructure, law and policy, economy, development and social and cultural security. BIGF should adopt inclusive approach. It must go outside Dhaka and hold meetings with media stake-holders for safeguarding their interests. In order to print magazines or newspapers, news outlets have to seek permission from the government. However, they also need to publish news on website and create video materials to meet the needs of the people. Should these outlets again turn to government for website and video publishing? We need to consider these matters. The higher education institutions of our countries should also include courses on Internet governance in their curriculums. The government should also developing and achieving sustainable development goals.”

Supporting AHM Bazlur Rahman’s view, Emdadul Huque, General Secretary, Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB) said, “90% of the problems regarding countrywide Internet access can be solved if we focus on infrastructure, law and policy, economy, development and social and cultural security. Government is now working to provide internet access to rural people but he is not discussing the matter with ISPAB. At present, BTRC is giving four types licenses to ISPs which are Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN), Interconnection Exchange (ICX), International Internet Gateway (IIG), and Internet Service Providers (ISP). I do not think so many different licenses are necessary.”



Afroza Haq Rina, Managing Director, Shom Communication Ltd. asked BIGF to work on ensuring security of the children, women and the state. She suggested that BIGF should play a pro-active role in cyber-security.

Nurunnaby Chowdhury, Administrator, Bangla Wikipedia said “We should raise awareness about purchasing .bangla domain. We also should focus on open data and bring all Internet-related laws under one umbrella. Currently, Internet is Dhaka-centric and we should spread Internet out of Dhaka. We must ensure Internet access to all the people.”

Md. Jahangir Hossain, Vice President, Internet Society (ISOC) Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter, said, “We should work with the government to work on Internet related policies. BIGF should prepare a regional-level country paper. Currently, Bangladesh has no representatives in Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). We should inform this matter to the government. The government should have a clear position on Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition. We should make a clear standing regarding Internet Governance remaining under ICANN or a neutral organization under the UN.”



Shazzad Hossain, Personal Assistant, Information Minister, Bangladesh said, “Internet Governance is not a widely discussed topic in our country. This discussion will set a new trend. The government should make its efforts on Internet Governance more visible in future. Hasanul Haq Inu, Minister of Information is working consistently to bring this matter to everyone’s attention and I am sure we would soon start to see the result. Bangladesh is going to prepare a country-position paper for the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> UNIGF and BIGF should take this initiative. BIGF should also go outside Dhaka and discuss with more stake-holders.”



Khaza Md. Anas Khan, Senior Manager, Bangladesh, Gigabyte Technology Co., LTD said, “The Internet service of our country should be brought under a policy and at the same time awareness-raising campaigns on Internet Governance should be conducted in university campuses around the country. A forum should be formed to oversee these activities.”

Jamil Ahmed, Media & Governance Expert said, “Government organizations should join this forum. The local media outlets should highlight local issues.”

Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, Fellow, IGF Academy said, “BIGF should be more active and should increase its capability. It must update its website. BIGF secretariat should looking for financial assistance to different donor organizations. IGF academy should regularly communicate with ICANN, APNIC, and ISOC.”

Nurul Islam Roman, Manager, Training and Technical Assistance Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) attended the session via Skype from Sri Lanka. He said, “We came across some important issues from this dialogue regarding Internet governance in Bangladesh. I am very to know about these issue. APNIC will provide necessary assistance to solve these issues. APNIC and BIGF should work together and help each other in future.”

At the end of the dialogue, the attendees agreed to attend another session on the last week of October which would have 30-40 participants. Based on this discussion, a paper will be published and submitted to IGF within November 1, 2016.

## Dialogue Recommendation

- We should work together to popularize IPV6.
- We also should work to give internet access to physically challenged people.
- ISPAB and BIGF can work together to develop Internet policy.
- The policy should ensure easy Internet access to people all over Bangladesh.
- BIGF should work in five areas- infrastructure, law and policy, economy, development and social and cultural security.
- BIGF should adopt inclusive approach.
- The higher education institutions of our countries should also include courses on Internet governance in their curriculums.
- The government should also developing and achieving sustainable development goals.
- BIGF should play a pro-active role in cyber-security.
- We must ensure Internet access to all the people.
- The government should have a clear position on Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition.
- BIGF should also go outside Dhaka and discuss with more stake-holders.